

GARAGE SALES

Beating the Weather

When planning your garage sale, keep a close eye on the skies. Bad weather can put a damper on sales, and it's not just rain you need to worry about. Keep reading for tips on dealing with Mother Nature at your garage sale.

HEAT

If spring cleaning runs into summer temps, never fear. Hot, sunny days are still good days to hold a sale. Just be sure to start early to beat the afternoon heat. And think about setting out ice chests of water or cold drinks that will tempt shoppers to browse longer. If you have kids, this is a great table for them to man for donations.

Set up popular items like jewelry or kitchenware under shade from a tree, a canopy, or inside the garage. Watch heat-sensitive things like candles and some electronics. And take care of yourself, too. As you tend to your sale, take breaks by finding a friend or family member to trade shifts with you. Stay hydrated and out of the sun as much as possible, and turn on fans to keep



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you cool outdoors.

COLD

Warm up a cold-weather sale with patio heaters and hot beverages for sale or for free. Start later in the day to miss the worst of the cool temps and make sure to dress

in layers so that you can stay comfortable. Pay attention to items that shouldn't get too cold, like some electronics, and put them out later in the day or hold them in a warmer area. Just make sure to keep your heaters away from flammable objects.

WINDY

Watch items that can blow away, like posters or pictures, some clothes and lightweight jewelry or home decor. Shelter those things from the wind as much as possible, along with your money box. If you have limited room, put

BUYER'S TIP

Bad weather? Bargain hunt

If the weather is less than perfect but sales are still going on, this is the perfect time to bargain hunt. Sellers may be willing to take a lower price to get rid of the item and there will be less competition.

lightweight items in a garage and heavier items, like furniture or appliances, out in the yard. See that price tags are well fastened and, if you planned on using a canopy or other shade, make sure it's weighted down.

RAIN OR SNOW

This is the worst-case scenario. If you were planning on holding the sale on a lawn or driveway, your items will get soaked. Shoppers may also stay home. You can beat the rain with tents or canopies, as long as there's no wind, or by holding an indoor sale. Just make sure to keep your other, non-sale items behind a closed door that's closely monitored. Of course, if severe weather is in the offing, consider keeping everyone safe and moving your sale to an alternate date.

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